

THE RURAL DISTRICT  
OF SAFFRON WALDEN

in the  
Administrative County of Essex



THE

ANNUAL  
REPORT



of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and the  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
for the year  
1957

Irene M. Conway Hastilow,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;

Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;

School Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

A. Armes, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector,

Saffron Walden Rural District Council.



## PREFACE

Public Health Department,  
69 High Street,  
Saffron Walden, Essex.

To The Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report on the health of Saffron Walden Rural District.

The estimated mid-year population rose from 18,540 in 1956 to 18,550 in 1957.

There were 289 births and 181 deaths during the year compared with 287 live births and 200 deaths in 1956.

Only 6 children under 1 year of age died in 1957 compared with 13 in 1956. Four of these infants were under four weeks of age.

On the whole 1957 was a healthy year apart from a very widespread epidemic of Asian Influenza in the last quarter of the year. Fortunately most cases were of a mild type. No cases of diphtheria occurred and there was only one case of poliomyelitis (paralytic).

The scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis was further developed by Essex County Council during the year and the response of the public was very good.

Statutory action under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951 had to be taken in 2 cases in 1957.

The problem of aged and infirm persons living alone became more pressing during the year. It was frequently impossible to obtain adequate help in their own homes and the four hospitals which admit such cases from this area often had long waiting lists.

I wish to thank the members of the Council, and particularly the Health Committee, for the encouragement given me during the year and the officials for their help and assistance. My particular thanks are due once more to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr A. Armes, and his Staff and to my Secretary, Miss A. M. Lamb. The Essex County Council Welfare Foods/Clinic Clerks, Mrs Sharp, Mrs Cushion and Mrs Whiffen rendered most loyal assistance during the year and I was deeply appreciative of their help.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. MARY CONWAY HASTILOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1958.

**SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as on 31st December, 1957)

Chairman: D. G. Gold, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: Mrs M. J. Leonard

Mrs E. R. Anderson  
Miss M. Baker  
J. D. Barnard, Esq.  
S. S. Barnard, Esq.  
A. L. Barton, Esq.  
J. H. W. Burleigh, Esq.  
Col. J. Bury  
H. J. Clunes, Esq.  
Brig. T. F. J. Collins  
W. Davey, Esq.  
A. Edge, Esq.  
B. E. Erith, Esq.  
Mrs H. B. Forman  
Mrs E. F. Fraser  
A. G. George, Esq.  
B. Goodwin, Esq.  
W. H. Hamilton, Esq.  
W. G. Hardy, Esq.  
W. Harvey, Esq.  
A. P. Holtom, Esq.  
J. H. M. Judd, Esq.  
A. F. Kemp, Esq.

W. L. Kent, Esq.  
A. D. King, Esq.  
Mrs M. Lindsell  
J. A. Littlewood, Esq.  
W. E. Mayhew, Esq.  
Mrs J. M. D. Muir  
G. T. Nunn, Esq., J.P.  
G. B. Parker, Esq.  
J. Pimblett, Esq.  
J. S. Plumb, Esq.  
F. O. Renshaw, Esq.  
S. J. Rowland, Esq.  
R. W. Smith, Esq.  
Vice-Admiral Sir G. O.  
Stephenson  
Col. W. A. Stewart  
W. A. Swan, Esq.  
D. A. W. Thesiger, Esq.  
W. G. C. Tomalin, Esq.  
P. H. Wiseman, Esq.  
C. Wright, Esq.

**Public Health Staff of the Authority**

**Medical Officer of Health:**

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

**Secretary:**

Miss A. M. Lamb.

**Chief Public Health Inspector:**

A. Armes, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Meat and Food Inspector's  
Certificate.

**Additional Public Health Inspectors:**

G. E. Hawthorn, M.A.P.H.I.

P. Reed, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (resigned June, 1957)

**Pupil Inspector:**

N. L. Good, (appointed August, 1957)

**Technical Assistant:**

R. Skoyles.

**Secretary:**

Miss B. J. Bishop.

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area: 78,585 acres.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate mid-year, 1957): 18,550.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1957) according to Rate Books: 5,987.

Rateable value (as at 31/12/57): £152,876.

Product of Penny Rate: £600.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

					Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	..	..	..	275	132	143
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	11	7	4
Still Births	Legitimate	..	..	..	3	1	2
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
Deaths from all causes		..	..	..	181	93	88
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:					15.6		
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:					9.8		

### DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

Cause of Death:	1957		1956	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	0	0	2	0
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	1	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease .....	0	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria .....	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	1	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	1	0
8. Measles .....	0	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	1	0	1	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	1	2	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	1	1	3	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	0	8	0	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	0	1	0	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	12	5	12	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	0	0	1	0
16. Diabetes .....	0	1	1	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	8	9	9	15
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	18	16	10	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	2	1	2	1
20. Other heart disease .....	12	7	13	19
21. Other circulatory disease .....	5	7	9	7
22. Influenza .....	1	3	1	1
23. Pneumonia .....	5	5	3	3
24. Bronchitis .....	4	3	6	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1	0	1	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	1	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	0	1	1	0



28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	1	1	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	0	1	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	0	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations .....	0	2	1	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	9	11	19	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	3	0	3	0
34. All other accidents .....	5	3	1	3
35. Suicide .....	0	0	1	0
36. Homicide and operations of war .....	0	0	0	0

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

From puerperal sepsis .....	0
From other puerperal causes .....	0
Total .....	0

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate .....	1	5
Illegitimate .....	0	0
Total .....	1	5

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age:—

Legitimate .....	0	4
Illegitimate .....	0	0
Total .....	0	4

All infants under one year per 1,000 live births: 20·98.

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.

**Diphtheria:** No cases of diphtheria occurred during the year.

**Food Poisoning:** Five cases of food poisoning occurred during the year.

**Poliomyelitis:** One case of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred during the year. No cases of non-paralytic poliomyelitis were notified.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### Notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis)

	1957	1956
Whooping Cough .....	63	123
Scarlet Fever .....	9	2
Erysipelas .....	1	1
Pneumonia .....	18	19
Measles .....	277	10
Infective Hepatitis .....	0	3
Diphtheria .....	0	0
Food Poisoning .....	5	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	0
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .....	1	2
(Non-paralytic) .....	0	3
Dysentery .....	1	0
Meningococcal Meningitis .....	1	1

## TUBERCULOSIS

**Notifications:** Eight cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1957—7 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. In 1956 seven cases of tuberculosis were notified—5 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary.

**Deaths:** There was one death from tuberculosis during 1957, and one death also occurred in 1956.

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

**Laboratory Service—Bacteriological Service.** The District is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

**Ambulance Facilities—**A day and night ambulance service is provided by Essex County Council. The Ambulance Station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons requiring an ambulance in an emergency are advised to dial "999" and ask for an ambulance. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person, such as a duly authorised officer in the Mental Health Service.

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

**Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery:** These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the area.

**Domiciliary Help Services:** Application for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Area, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

**Care of Expectant Mothers:** An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden.

A Women's Welfare Clinic is conducted in conjunction with the above. This is not a Family Planning Clinic and advice and treatment are only given in those cases where pregnancy would be definitely detrimental to health.

**Care of Children up to School Age:** Child Welfare Sessions are held at Newport, Debden, Ashdon and Stansted as well as at Saffron Walden. Children are immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough on request. Vaccinations against smallpox are not carried out at the Clinics as a routine, but are performed by the family doctor. The scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis was further developed during the year.

**Care of School Children:** Regular Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children are immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis with the consent of the parents.

**Dental Service:** Treatment is given at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden, and inspections and treatment carried out in the schools.

**Hospitals:** The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the population of the Saffron Walden Rural District are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

**Chest Clinics** are available for the population of Saffron Walden Rural District. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital, one at Castle Hill, Cambridge, and one at the Herts. and Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

**Treatment of Venereal Diseases** is provided at the Clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts. and Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951**

Statutory action had to be taken under this Act in two cases during 1957.

### **SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA HOUSING**

The Council completed the construction of 45 houses during the year whilst the number erected by private enterprise totalled 54.

With the reduction in the number of priority applicants for housing, the Council decided to consider the growing need for accommodation for old people with a view to providing such accommodation in each village.

This, together with the replacement of houses dealt with under Slum Clearance schemes, will undoubtedly set the pattern of housing progress for the next few years.

### **WATER**

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor (Mr J. S. Y. Molineux), who is responsible for the maintenance of main water supplies, for the following report:—

#### **Water Supplies:**

I am very pleased to say that the quantity and quality of water available in the area continued to be satisfactory, the total overall consumption amounting to 277 million gallons, an increase of 21 million gallons on the previous year. The increased consumption is accounted for by an increased consumption on metered supplies, and the consumption per head, excluding metered supplies, remains at 33 gallons.

The Council has received complaints regarding the lack of mains supply in North Hall Road, Ugley, and has now agreed to extend the main in this area, subject to the consent of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Essex County Council.

### **SEWERAGE**

There is no further progress to report on the various sewerage schemes which are being prepared.



# TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

(in parts per million)

TEST FOR	SOURCE						
	Hempstead Works	Wenden Works	Henham Works	Newport Works	Linton Works	Stansted Works	Rochfords Works
	Bright	Bright	Faint Opalescence Nil 3 Slight Chlorinous 8.0 5 520 370 17 240 285 240 45 0.0 Absent	Bright	Bright	Bright	Bright
Appearance	Nil	Nil	Opalescence	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Turbidity	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Slight	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.7	7.7	Chlorinous	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.2
Free CO <sub>2</sub>	11	10	8.0	22	17	13	34
Elect. Conductivity	540	510	5	590	500	560	590
Total Solids	390	370	370	410	335	400	395
Cl. as Chloride	17	13	17	23	16	19	21
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	270	260	240	275	225	255	280
Hardness (Total)	305	290	285	315	270	305	330
Hardness (Carbonate)	270	260	240	275	225	255	280
Hardness (Non-Carbonate)	35	30	45	40	45	50	50
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.7	4.7	0.0	6.8	9.5	6.0	5.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Less than 0.01	Absent	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.25	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.10	0.05
Residual Chlorine	—	—	0.45	Absent	Absent	—	Absent
Metals	Absent	Absent	Iron: 0.14 other metals absent	Absent	Zinc: 0.40 other metals absent	Absent	Iron: 0.03 other metals absent

**Bacteriological Examinations:** All supplies were sampled regularly for bacteriological examination and where reports proved unsatisfactory immediate action was taken.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1957

### PREFACE

To the chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting in the following pages, my twelfth Annual Report dealing with the work of the Department for the year 1957.

It will be obvious that, owing to the many facets of public health work which we are called upon to carry out, it is impossible to concentrate unduly on any one particular aspect, although the broad results of these duties ensures that, even without certain public amenities, the level of public health is maintained, and indeed, is improved year by year.

Duties connected with Housing legislation must of necessity make prior claims upon all public health officers, and the progress recorded in respect of "slum clearance" and improvement grant schemes is satisfying. The provisions of the Rent Act will undoubtedly aid the repair of houses, generally without action by the local authority, and as pointed out in a Ministry circular, Councils will not be so diffident, in future, in dealing with properties under the repair sections of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

It is to be regretted that the outstanding lead obtained by the Council in its comprehensive pre-war water schemes has not been followed by more rapid progress in providing main sewerage to the larger parishes, and it is hoped that the actual commencement of at least one of the many planned schemes will take place before next year's report is produced.

However, the step taken by the Council in providing fortnightly refuse collection throughout the District was undoubtedly welcomed by the majority of householders.

The continual campaign to improve the standard of food hygiene both in shops and restaurants has been greatly assisted by the new Regulations, together with the rapid development of new materials and equipment, but undoubtedly the biggest factor is the steady growth of public opinion in this matter. Meat inspection duties have shown a marked increase, but the public can rest assured that every effort will be made to ensure 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered.

My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and all members of the Council for their support and encouragement, and to my staff and colleagues for their loyalty and assistance. Particular mention should be made of Mr G. Hawthorn, who has been my immediate deputy for many years, and Mr A. W. Overall, Clerk to the Council, who is responsible for obtaining such willing co-operation between all the Chief Officers.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. ARMES.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957

Before proceeding to comment on the various sections of the work of the Department, I give below a summary of inspections and visits carried out during the year:—

Total number of visits .....	3407
Inspections under the Housing Acts (Repairs, overcrowding, Improvement Grants, etc) .....	723
Investigations and re-inspections regarding Council House applications .....	869
Inspections of Council houses regarding cleanliness, management, lodgers, etc. ....	168
Inspections in connection with Public Health Nuisances .....	127
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases .....	118
Visits in connection with Rodent Destruction (not including Operator's Visits) .....	38
Inspections of Dairies .....	27
Inspections of Food Shops, Restaurants, Canteens, Licensed Premises, etc. ....	164
Inspections of Factories including Bakehouses .....	23
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises .....	86
Inspections regarding proposed new drainage .....	177
Inspections in connection with defective drainage .....	257
Visits in connection with Refuse and Night Soil Collection and Salvage .....	164
Inspections in connection with water supplies other than main supplies .....	30
Number of water samples collected from main supplies .....	208
Inspections in connection with Moveable Dwellings .....	83
Miscellaneous Visits .....	145

### HOUSING

#### (a) New Building:

During 1957 the progress made in the erection of Council houses and the building of private houses was as follows:—

Number of Council houses completed .....	45
Number of Council houses under construction at 31.12.57 ...	18
Number of private houses erected .....	54
Number of private houses under construction at 31.12.57.....	70

#### (b) Housing Programme:

Early in the year a revised estimate of housing requirements, based upon the investigation of applications, was presented to the Council.

This showed the position to be as follows:—

Total number of applicants .....	406
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**Priority Cases:**

Overcrowded or with "bedroom deficiency" .....	14
Applicants (with children) sharing homes .....	18
Applicants living in sub-standard houses .....	25
<b>Total number of priority cases .....</b>	<b>57</b>

In considering the immediate housing programme the Council had in mind the following points:—

- (1) The comparatively small number of priority cases (57 applicants in 30 parishes).
- (2) A Circular issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the 18th March, 1957, which stated:—  
 "Local Authorities, will, however, appreciate that if the houses and flats on their estates are to be used to the best advantage, there must be adequate provision of smaller dwellings, together with a sympathetic and efficient system of movement of tenants from larger to smaller houses, as children grow up and leave home".
- (3) A report prepared by the department which indicated that 108 existing Council houses were "under-occupied" (61 of these were occupied by old people).
- (4) The only subsidies available were in respect of families displaced from condemned properties, and in respect of bungalows erected for old people.

It was accordingly decided to proceed with the erection of 16 old people's bungalows with the object of transferring older tenants to these and releasing the larger houses for the priority cases on the housing lists.

**(c) Selection of Tenants:**

The task of the Tenancy Committee in selecting tenants for the smaller number of houses available becomes increasingly difficult, and great care is, therefore taken in presenting accurate and up-to-date information on the housing conditions of each applicant.

33 new houses were let, 35 existing houses re-let, and 8 transfers arranged, the table below indicating the grounds on which tenants were selected:—

Families sharing homes .....	23
Families overcrowded or with "bedroom deficiency" .....	3
Bad housing conditions (disrepair, etc.) .....	15
Families separated owing to housing need .....	11
Miscellaneous (Agricultural need, medical grounds eviction orders, etc.) .....	16
Transfers .....	8

**(d) Council House Management:**

All applications by Council tenants for permission to house lodgers are fully investigated before approval is recommended. An additional charge of 5/- weekly is imposed (with certain exceptions) in respect of lodgers. 79 tenants were housing lodgers at the end of the year.



Visits are paid to tenants known to be unsatisfactory as regards cleanliness, etc; 8 warnings were subsequently issued which brought about considerable improvement in each case.

At the end of the year the Council carried out a careful review of the rents of all Council houses bearing in mind the deficit shown in the Housing Revenue Account.

**(e) Overcrowding:**

The following table indicates the position regarding cases of overcrowding and "borderline" cases:—

**SUMMARY OF OVERCROWDING AND ABATEMENT**

	"Borderline" (Permitted No. =Number of persons)	Houses where No. of "persons" exceeded the permitted number by:—								Totals	
		$\frac{1}{2}$ person	1 person	2 persons	2½ persons	3 persons	3½ persons	4 persons	4½ persons	Borderline	Overcrowded
Cases on Register at 31.12.56	7	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Ascertained during 1957	—	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Cases abated during 1957 by removal to Council Houses	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Cases otherwise abated during 1957	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Number of cases on Register at 31.12.57	3	1	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	7

**(f) Action taken under the Housing Act, 1957:**

All dwelling houses deemed, after inspection, to require action regarding repair, demolition, etc., are referred to the Housing Sub-Standard properties Committee which recommends appropriate action under the Housing Act.

Action taken during the year is set out in the tabular statement given below:—

Number of houses inspected for housing defects .....	116
Number of Informal Repairs Notices served .....	37
Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action .....	25
Number of Statutory Repair Notices served (Section 9) .....	2
Number of houses rendered fit by owners after service of Statutory Notices .....	—
Number of Demolition Orders made .....	6
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	6
Number of Demolition Orders revoked (Housing Act 1954) .....	2
Number of houses demolished in consequence of Clearance Orders .....	—
Number of houses voluntarily demolished by owners following informal action .....	6
Number of Undertakings accepted from owners (Section 16, Housing Act, 1957) .....	10
Number of dwellings rendered fit after acceptance of Undertakings .....	3

(Note.—The above figures do not include properties improved with the aid of Improvement Grants.)

It was decided to extend the terms of reference of the Housing Sub-Standard Properties Committee to include all dwellings found to require formal action during the survey of the district by the department. Progress in this work has been seriously delayed owing to the departure of the second assistant public health Inspector.

**(g) Housing Acts—Slum Clearance Programme:**

The Council's proposals submitted to the Minister in August, 1955, envisaged the following programme to be carried out within ten years:—

(i) Estimated number of unfit dwellings requiring action under Section 11 or Section 25 Housing Act, 1936 .....	264
(ii) Number of houses included in operative Clearance Orders ...	33

Total number of houses to be dealt with in ten year period ...	297
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The progress already made up to 31st December, 1957, is indicated below:—

(iii) Houses included in Demolition Orders and Closing Orders ...	30
(iv) Undertakings accepted from owners .....	58
(v) Houses voluntarily demolished by owners following action under the Housing Acts .....	7
(vi) Houses in existing Clearance Areas demolished .....	4
(vii) Houses in existing Clearance Areas regarded as demolished and reconstructed .....	15
Total number of properties dealt with up to 31st December, 1957 .....	114

### (h) Improvement Grants:

Following enquiries from owners regarding the possibility of obtaining Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, 69 dwellings were surveyed and schedules of repairs and improvements required were forwarded to the property owners.

The Council continued its policy of giving maximum Grants based on "approved expenditure", and progress made during 1957 was as follows:—

Number of Grants approved during 1957 .....	51
Total "Approved Expenses" incurred by owners .....	£33,878
Total sum of Grants approved during 1957 .....	£13,921
Number of schemes completed during 1957 .....	53

Progress made in this important phase of housing improvement from the commencement of the scheme in 1950 up to 31st December, 1957, is indicated in the following table:—

Number of applications for Grants received .....	203
Number of Grants approved by the Council .....	194
Total "Approved Expenses" incurred by owners .....	£113,071
Total sum of Grants approved .....	£51,057
Number of schemes completed .....	142
Total sum of Grants paid .....	£36,235

Of the 194 dwellings for which Grants were approved, 65 were owner-occupied and 129 occupied by tenants.

In view of the fact that all the properties receiving Grant-aid are brought up to modern standards, it will be appreciated that the scheme plays an important part in the betterment of housing conditions, and progress in this work must be reflected in future "slum clearance" activities.

### (i) Rent Act, 1957:

A number of enquiries were received from owners and tenants regarding this legislation which came into operation in July, 1957.

Seven applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair, and full reports were presented to the responsible Committee.

At the end of the year, one Certificate of Disrepair had been issued, one refused, and in five cases Form J (intimation that Certificate will be issued) was served on the owners.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

All applications for Development Permission to use land for moveable dwellings under the Town and Country Planning Acts are investigated so that conditions to be imposed in connection with the subsequent issue of licences under the Public Health Act can be ascertained.

The majority of such applications were in respect of modern trailer caravans to be used as temporary housing accommodation for mobile workers, agricultural workers or by those erecting permanent dwellings on the site.

Nine of the eleven applications received during the year were approved under the Planning Acts, and Public Health Act licences subsequently issued.

There are now twelve licences in force in respect of separate moveable dwellings, and two licences applicable to sites permitting stationing of tents, vans and sheds thereon during the summer months only.

As the result of action taken regarding nine cases where moveable dwellings were placed on land without local authority consent, all these sites were cleared.

In one instance, where it was found that conditions attached to Town Planning Consent were not being complied with, a warning was issued which resulted in the site being cleared by the owner.

### WATER SUPPLIES

Samples of water taken from the headworks and from various premises on the lines of supply were collected at approximately fortnightly intervals. Bacteriological examinations carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge gave the following results:—

Supply	No. of samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination	Number complying with standard	Number found not to comply with standard
Rochfords, Birchanger	29	18	11
Stansted Water Co.	34	33	1
Southern Area (Henham Works)	30	28	2
Central Area (Newport Works)	35	31	4
Western Area (Wenden Works)	33	33	—
Eastern Area (Hempstead Works)	35	33	2
Hadstock (South Cambs. R.D.C.)	12	12	—
Totals	208	188	20

Only five cottages at Rochfords Nurseries are supplied from the private bore, the remainder of the estate being connected to Stansted Water Company's supply.

In all cases where results proved below standard, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor was informed, and re-sampling carried out immediately; all the public supplies are chlorinated.

Samples were submitted from each of the seven supplies for full chemical examination, and the reports received from the laboratory indicated that all the waters were highly satisfactory.

It was agreed by the Council to provide a main extension at North Hall Road, Henham, to supply ten houses which derive their water from unsatisfactory wells, and also to contribute towards the cost of laying an extension at Wicken Bonhunt to supply seven dwellings.

New Water Byelaws made under Section 17, Water Act (re. waste, undue consumption, etc.), were confirmed during the year, and are now in force.



Samples were taken from nine private wells, eight of which proved unsatisfactory. Three of these supplies were improved after the repair and cleansing of the wells, and five properties were connected to existing mains after service of informal notices.

## **SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE**

Discussions and negotiations continued during the year regarding the provision of main sewerage in various parishes.

The scheme for the parish of Ashdon is being prepared by the Consulting Engineers, and the proposals for sewerage the lower portion of the village of Birchanger are still awaited.

A report on the survey carried out in the parish of Manuden was forwarded to the Essex County Council, and their observations on the £39,000 scheme in respect of this village have now been received.

The provision of a proper disposal works to serve the Council house estate at Radwinter was delayed owing to difficulties in connection with the proposed site.

There is no action to report regarding the provision of main drainage for the parishes of Littlebury, Great Chesterford or Debden; some improvement in the latter village was effected by the piping of a short length of open sewer.

The Council decided to adopt the new sewers serving the new Blythwood estate at Stansted.

151 Plans submitted for Building Byelaw approval were examined by this department and, after investigation, recommendations were passed to the Plans Committee.

Where sewers are not available, the standard septic tank installation designed by the Engineer and Surveyor is usually provided, and the majority of these appear to function satisfactorily.

The Council does not operate a cesspool emptying service, this work being carried out by private firms called in by householders.

49 Informal Notices were issued in respect of defective drainage, and 45 of these had been complied with by the end of the year.

42 Pre-war Council houses were provided with water closets, and drainage, during the year.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

In the spring of 1957 the Council again debated the question of increasing the frequency of refuse collection, and it was finally agreed to carry out fortnightly collection in all parishes, the tender of £6,954. 14. 6. per annum for 3 years being accepted. The new scheme commenced on 1st July, 1957, the work being carried out by three "moving floor" type vehicles, each with a crew of two men.

All refuse is disposed of at the four tips rented by the Council, direct labour being employed to level and trim the refuse deposited.

It was agreed to empty litter baskets provided in various parishes, this work being carried out during normal refuse collection.

The Council employs a contractor to provide weekly emptying of pail closets at Great Chesterford and Littlebury and the unsewered portion of Newport.

Householders in other villages can take advantage of a private collection scheme whereby they pay the contractor direct the charge of 1/3d. per collection; 207 householders were taking advantage of this service at the end of the year.

Waste paper salvaged during refuse collection is baled at Newport and Stansted and is purchased by Thames Board Mills Ltd., in accordance with their contract. Restrictions on intake imposed by the purchasers were slightly eased during the year, and this accounted for an increased income as shown below. Rags and metals are also salvaged and sold to a local merchant.

A metal recovery firm investigated the possibility of recovering tins from the tips, but unfortunately this did not prove feasible.

Income derived from the sale of salvage is shown in the following table, figures in respect of the previous year being given for comparison:—

				1956			1957		
				T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	..	..	..	96	15	2	104	3	2
Rags	..	..	..	1	12	0	1	0	3
Metals	..	..	..	1	17	1	4	17	3
<b>Total Income</b>	..	..		<b>£815</b>	<b>13s.</b>	<b>1d.</b>	<b>£854</b>	<b>8s.</b>	<b>1d.</b>

## RODENT CONTROL

The work of rat and mice destruction is carried out by a part-time operator; occupiers of dwelling houses are charged in accordance with a scale based on rateable value, the full cost of treating business premises being recovered.

Although the Council is responsible for ensuring that agricultural premises are kept free from infestation, no action was necessary either in this connection or in relation to the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950, whereby it is an offence to carry out threshing unless the area is properly surrounded by netting.

Work carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 during the year ended 31st March, 1958, was as follows:—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (Refuse Tips, etc.)	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other including Business Premises	Total
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections ... ..)	21	67	—	15	103
Number of properties found to be infested with rats:—					
(a) Major infestations ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Minor infestations ... ..	13	58	—	10	81
Number of properties found to be infested with mice:—					
(a) Major infestations ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Minor infestations ... ..	—	6	—	3	9
Total number of properties treated by the Council's Operator ... ..	20	64	—	14	98

All refuse tips were regularly inspected and treated.

Test baiting of manholes in sewers at Newport and Stansted indicated that the former system is still free of rat infestation, but several lengths of sewers at Stansted required poison treatment, which was carried out.

Following a report that a rat had been discovered on board an aircraft arriving at Stansted Airport from the Far East, the plane was treated with cyanide by a fumigation company, and the carcase of a black rat (*Rattus Rattus*) was recovered.

## FACTORIES ACTS

Details of factories registered, inspections made and action taken are given in the following table.

Two Certificates were issued as to adequate means of escape in case of fire.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	3	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	47	14	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) .....	6	4	—	—
Total	56	23	1	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):					
(a) insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective .....	1	1	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to out-workers) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	1	—

## AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

No action was taken in connection with this new legislation, but it is hoped to carry out inspections of premises concerned at an early date.



## INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### (a) Meat Inspection:

Regular slaughtering took place at the one licensed slaughterhouse in the District.

All animals were inspected immediately after slaughter to ensure that the meat was fit for human consumption, and all condemned meat and offal is stained before being removed from the premises.

Particulars of meat inspected and condemned are given below:—

Total amount of meat and offal condemned:—

Carcase Meat .....	449 lbs.
Offal .....	351½ lbs.

### CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ... ..	105	—	—	392	277	—
Number inspected ... ..	105	—	—	392	277	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	27	—	—	—	9	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	25.71	—	—	0.51	3.24	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:—</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	7	—	—	—	16	—
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis ... ..	6.66	—	—	—	6.13	—
Cysticercosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

### (b) Milk:

Registered Dairy Premises are inspected at frequent intervals, and samples of milk taken at random from the dairies or delivery vans.

Practically all milk retailed in the District is Tuberculin Tested or heat treated; in November a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicated that it is proposed to include the Rural District in a "Specified Area", wherein only Tuberculin Tested or heat treated milk may be sold.

Number of Registered Dairy Premises .....	10
Number of Registered Distributors of Milk .....	10
Dealers Licences issued for Tuberculin Tested Milk .....	10
Dealers Licences issued for Pasteurised Milk .....	10
Dealers Licences issued for Sterilised Milk .....	6
*Supplementary Licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk .....	6
Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised Milk .....	6
Supplementary Licences—Sterilised Milk .....	3

(\*Supplementary Licences are issued in respect of sale of milk from premises situated outside the District.)

### Sampling Results:—

Designation	Samples taken	Number satisfactory	Number unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	2	2	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) .....	12	12	—
Pasteurised ... ..	11	11	—
Sterilised ... ..	2	2	—
Ungraded ... ..	—	—	—

Sampling for biological examination (for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus) is carried out by the Essex County Council. No positive results were notified, and no action was necessary under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations (compulsory diversion of milk supplies for heat treatment).

### (c) Ice Cream:

Practically all ice-cream sold in the area is pre-wrapped by the manufacturers.

75 samples were submitted to the Cambridge laboratory for bacteriological examination from the 60 vendors registered under the Essex County Council Act and results are indicated below:—

Samples in Provisional Grade I .....	73
Samples in Provisional Grade II .....	3
Samples in Provisional Grade III .....	—
Samples in Provisional Grade IV .....	—

### (d) Other Foods:

No statutory seizures of unfit food were made; wholesalers and retailers co-operate with the department by reporting food suspected as

unsound, and the following were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Butchers' Meat .....	217 lbs.
Canned Meat .....	119 tins
Corned Beef .....	136 lbs.
Various Canned Foods .....	62 tins
Wrapped Cheese .....	61 portions
Dried Milk Powder .....	63 lbs.
Cooked Ham .....	47 lbs.

#### (e) Food Premises, Cafes, Restaurants, etc.

There are 200 food premises in the District, and types of each are shown below:—

Butchers' Shops .....	6
General Stores (grocery and provisions) .....	59
Bakehouses .....	5
Bakers' and Confectioners' shops .....	5
Sweet shops .....	5
Greengrocers .....	2
Fishmongers .....	1
Poultry Dressing Depots .....	1
Bacon Curing Establishments .....	1
Wholesale Provision Merchants .....	1
Cafes and Restaurants .....	10
Licensed Premises .....	82
School Kitchens and Central Cooking Depots .....	5
Schools serving meals .....	17

Seven of the above are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

During 164 visits of inspection made during the year, attention was drawn to the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Clean Food Byelaws. Generally speaking, it has not been difficult to persuade managements to provide handwashing facilities, properly surfaced tables, and modern equipment, etc., required under the Regulations. This indicates that both proprietors and public are gradually becoming "clean food conscious", and it is satisfying to note the almost complete abolition of such unhygienic practices as the use of newspaper for wrapping, licking of fingers and unnecessary handling of open food. I have, however, had repeatedly to call attention to the widespread practice of exposing unwrapped foods on counters and in windows where contamination from dust and flies, etc., can easily occur; also, far too many washhand basins, nail brushes, etc., present that dry, unused appearance indicating that food handlers do not practice the habit of repeated hand washing.

New sanitary accommodation was provided at two restaurants following informal action.

The two day visit of the Essex County Agricultural Show to the District coincided with extremely hot weather conditions, and the opportunity was taken to inspect the catering facilities during preparation and operation. The fullest co-operation was experienced from all concerned, and every attempt was made to comply with the Regulations despite the difficulties applicable to this type of catering. To my mind, the absence of portable cold storage equipment was the most noticeable feature, and it is to be hoped that equipment manufacturers and catering contractors will give consideration to this matter, bearing in mind the fact that much of the food has perforce to be prepared and stored overnight in poorly ventilated marquees etc.

An explosive outbreak of diarrhoea and sickness among pupils at a village school was thoroughly investigated, but there was no indication that this was connected in any way with communal feeding at the school canteen.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

118 visits were paid in connection with notified cases of infectious diseases and food poisoning. Cases investigated included 8 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 Poliomyelitis, 5 Salmonella Typhi-murium, 2 Sonne Dysentery, 1 Meningococcal Meningitis, and an outbreak of Asian 'flu at an educational hostel.

24 poliomyelitis contacts and 1 smallpox contact were visited, and 44 specimens were forwarded to the laboratory for examination.

Terminal disinfection was carried out in 12 cases, and complete disinfection of bedding, etc., arranged after the removal to hospital of 3 cases of tuberculosis.

### GENERAL MATTERS

Miscellaneous matters dealt with under Public Health and allied legislation included the following:—

Dwelling houses in filthy condition .....	2
Nuisances from accumulations of refuse .....	1
Nuisances from polluted ditches and ponds .....	2
Nuisances from pig keeping .....	2
Dwelling houses infested with fleas .....	7
Other insect infestations .....	7

Action was necessary in connection with seven aged persons living alone under unsatisfactory conditions, three of whom were removed to suitable hospitals after action by the Medical Officer of Health in co-operation with officers of the Essex Welfare Department and the Regional Hospital Board.

Reports on 364 properties were forwarded to the Clerk of the Council in connection with Requisitions for Searches under the Land Charges Act.

A. ARMES.

September, 1958

Chief Public Health Inspector.





